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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 1 December 1950

SUBJECT Action against Catholic Church Officials

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1. Mgr. Vendel Endredy, Abbot of Zirc, and his secretary were arrested on 1 November 1950. They were taken from their automobile while en route from Budapest to Esztergom.
2. Endredy has been one of the most active leaders of the opposition to Communism within the religious orders. He was arrested because he had forbidden members of his order to sign the Stockholm Appeal (he was the first high-ranking priest to take such action), and because he had dismissed Richard Horvath from the Cistercian Order on the ground of Communist sympathies. Horvath threatened Endredy with punishment by the AVH, but Endredy replied that he had no fear of AVH methods. After this incident, Endredy deposited his private papers with Mihály Marcel, the director of the Central Theological Seminary; two days after Endredy's arrest, AVH obtained these papers from Marcel, so that it appears that Endredy was forced to reveal their hiding place.
3. On 8 November another Cistercian, named Hagyo-Kovacs, was arrested by the AVH in the Piarist building on Vaci ut. He is charged with being the "finance minister" of the religious orders, entrusted with the distribution of funds to needy monks and nuns. The origin of these funds is unknown, but is presumed to be the Vatican.
4. The Church in Hungary expects that more monks will be arrested, since only 103 of them (out of some three thousand) have accepted jobs in the State-controlled schools. The government desires to know how the rest of them are able to live and who is giving them money.

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